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Director of Central Intelligence



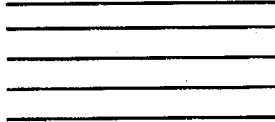
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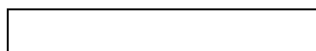
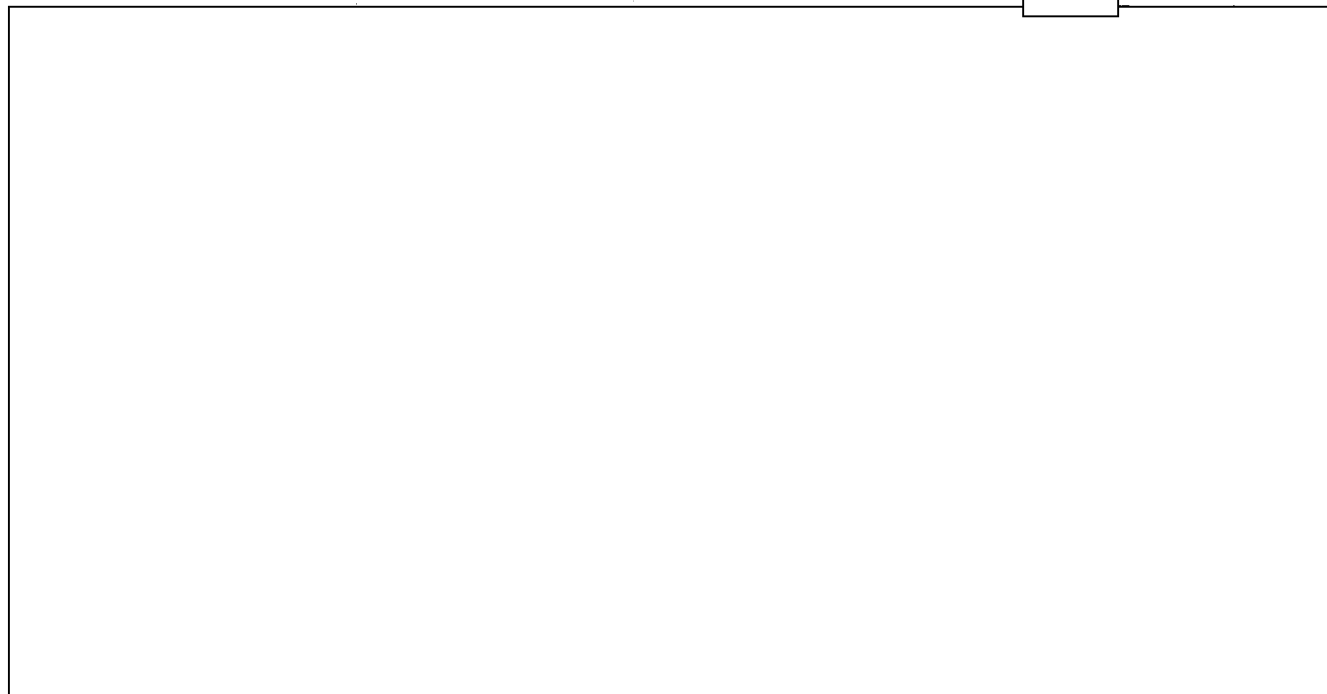
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APEC: Positive Initial Reactions to Vancouver Meeting



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APEC: Commentary on Presidential Bilaterals

South Korean media took note of President Clinton's "promise of cooperation" in helping Seoul overcome its economic difficulties and of his "high rating" of Seoul's efforts to date. Several newspapers highlighted the President's reported commitment to maintain the bilateral security alliance and to cooperate on four-party talks with North Korea.

Indonesian papers pointed out that President Clinton's meeting with President Soeharto, scheduled for 30 minutes, lasted almost one hour. Indonesia's largest newspaper and the progovernment newspaper *Republika* noted Soeharto thanked President Clinton for helping overcome Indonesia's haze problem and economic difficulties, and another important paper claimed the two countries had "more cooperation than differences."

Tokyo's major newspapers dwelt on economic issues discussed by the two leaders. Japan's two largest dailies noted that President Clinton expressed concern about Japan's stagnating economy and its growing trade surplus.

— Some newspapers reported on the two leaders' discussions on the coming Kyoto conference on global warming.